

May 6, 2004

TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE SENIOR STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: RICHARD C. TRIGG
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Public Health Advisory on
Antidepressant Medications

1. Purpose. To provide information on the FDA Public Health Advisory released on March 22, 2004, regarding the subject of worsening depression and suicidality in patients being treated with antidepressant medications.
2. Background. In Job Corps there are students receiving accommodations that involve the use of antidepressant medications. Consequently, it is important that the health and wellness program staff be knowledgeable of any current information that may impact the prescribing and monitoring of antidepressant medications.

The FDA's Public Health Advisory requests that a warning statement be placed in the labeling of certain antidepressants. This warning statement will act to encourage close observation of adult and pediatric patients treated with these agents for worsening depression, or the emergence of suicidality. Patients should be carefully monitored for worsening depression or suicidal thoughts especially in the first 14 days after beginning the medication treatment, or when the dose is either increased or decreased. Please note that this is a **preliminary** FDA advisory. The FDA is continuing to review available clinical trial data for pediatric patients with depression and other psychiatric disorders in an effort to determine whether there is evidence that some or all antidepressants increase the risk of suicidality. Later this summer, the FDA plans to release the results of this review. At that time, Job Corps will revisit this issue and will distribute a detailed Information Notice.

Please review the Attachment for more information on the FDA's Public Health Advisory.

3. Action. This Notice along with its Attachment should be distributed to all Job Corps center health and wellness staff, specifically the center physician, center mental health consultant, health and wellness manager, and center dentist. In addition, the FDA's advisory can be found on the Job Corps Health and Wellness website at www.jobcorpshealth.com.

4. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

5. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to Barbara Grove, RN at 202-693-3116, or email to grove.barbara@dol.gov.

Attachment